



FESTIVAL OF THE TRAIL: Save the date for this year's Festival of Trail **OCTOBER 13** featuring music at the murals, artist and vendor booths and so much more. Deadline for artist and vendor applications is **SEPTEMBER 15** and are available by emailing lryskamp@highland.in.gov.

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • SEPTEMBER 2018

Restaurant Renaissance

Downtown Highland is awash in new.

Behind vintage storefronts are a band of entrepreneurs eager to put their mark on the Highway Avenue strip that has been the heart of the community for the last 75 years – and counting.

The Foreits – Dr. David and Emily – are creating a new home for Maria's Buena Cocina in what was the dining room and kitchen of Anthony's Cafe. Next door, there is more Foreit family fun when David's brother Mark and his wife Jenny join the couple in planning a walk-up ice cream and Italian ice emporium.

Just up the street at 2845 Highway, The Green Witch Juice Bar is already serving up a heady list of downtown, doggone healthy goodness.

"We came to Highland from Munster two years ago when we rehabbed 2621 Highway to serve as my husband's medical practice," Emily Foreit said. "Once we were here, we kept looking at other opportunities presented throughout the downtown. Highland has the look and feel we were excited to find." 🐾

MARIA'S BUENA COCINA

Highland's go-to Mexican joint for authentic Chilaquiles and mouth-watering tamales has found a home on Highway Avenue. Restaurant-goers can enjoy Maria's authentic Mexican cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner when it opens later this fall.

INFO: Visit @mariasbuenacocina on Facebook for updates.

GREEN WITCH JUICE BAR

The Green Witch takes nature's bounty, using it to concoct a host of healthy delectables like fresh juices, smoothies, salads, snacks and more.

INFO: Visit @highland.green.witch on Facebook to learn more about our menu and weekly specials.

ICE CREAM & ITALIAN ICE

When the Foreits - Dr. David, Emily, Mark and Jenny - open the family's very own shop to serve frozen delights in the spring, it will mirror what the Custard Shop was when it opened nearly 70 years ago - with a twist all their own. Stay tuned!

SENIOR HOUSING SPARKS GROWTH

Iowa-based Russell Group is continuing its work to secure administrative approvals for the town's first senior housing complex. With one project moving toward completion, the Town Council is studying the possibilities of how to transform North Kennedy Avenue.

The developer and council came to an agreement in July to locate the Public Works garage on the same 20-acre parcel as the senior housing development just north of Ernie Strack Drive.

Town Councilman Bernie Zemen said Russell Group presented an ideal development at just the right time.

"This is an exciting project that has the potential of sparking development in other areas of town, particularly on North Kennedy Avenue," Zemen said.

"We looked at every other nook and cranny to locate Public Works and none of them were just right," he said.

"What we have now is an ideal location for the town garage, a high-end senior housing development for residents who want to stay in town without the upkeep of their homes and a large parcel of developable land along Kennedy Avenue that has high visibility just off the expressway.

"The economic benefit of this project will continue for decades to come." 🐾



NO BURNING LEAVES

Open burning of leaves, twigs or other yard waste is prohibited within the corporate limits of the Town of Highland.

According to Title 12.15.050 of the Highland Municipal Code, "No person shall openly burn or ignite refuse, garbage or rubbish." The law was created in 2000 to keep residents and structures safe.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov/MunicipalCode to learn more.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends at Highland's monthly neighborhood watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **SEPTEMBER 12**

WHERE: HPD Community Room

INFO: Please call Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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"It was good we were all able to get together, tap into our team of experts and get the information we need to get problems solved," said Fire Chief Bill Timmer, one of 40 leaders who participated in the exercise.

ACTIVE SHOOTER EXERCISE LAUNCHES YEARLONG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Keeping all of Highland's school campuses safe is a full-time engagement that includes collaborative planning, exercises and drills.

In anticipation of the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, Police Chief Pete Hojnicky unveiled a master plan and table-top exercise for the town's eight public and private schools.

"Working diligently with school officials and first responders, we researched and determined best practices that provide staff and students a safer learning environment," Hojnicky said. "Our master plan was created based on policies from nationally accredited agencies that have been tailored to work in our community."

The exercise launched a year-long awareness campaign that focuses on prevention, security, awareness, training and communication.

School Town of Highland Superintendent Brian Smith said ongoing efforts by the town to keep students safe is critical.

"This 'Active Shooter' event was a huge success – a critical step I am convinced will be successful in helping keep our schools and community safe," Smith said. "This is a well thought out plan we all hope we will never have to use."

Lake County 911 Deputy Director Jack Allendorf said Highland's plan includes all the variables.

"Communications during an emergency such as this are of utmost importance," Allendorf said.

"Being involved in the preplanning, we can help to ensure that all involved can effectively and efficiently communicate during all phases of an active shooter incident." 🐦

NEW SKATE PARK OPENING LATE SEPTEMBER

Come for the grand opening of Highland' Parks newest venue: Stay for action when local skateboarders get to try out – and show off – their skills at a park made just for them.

Region Rat Skate Shop owner Joe Murovic III is eager to see the finished product.

"Highland's skate park is different from any of the other skate venues in the area," the Highland resident said. "I've stopped a few times and even hung out with the construction crew."

Park Superintendent Alex Brown is just as excited. "We planned for this park for many years and selected a leader in the sport to build it. It turned out even better than we hoped." 🐦

THE KICKOFF ...

The new skate park features transitional elements and innovative roundwall creations that speak to skateboarders of varying skill levels. The street-style settings are defined by stairs, handrails, planters and benches.

Highland Parks and Recreation will formally unveil the park with a kickoff celebration at the end of this month. Check the town website - highland.in.gov - for updates.

WHEN: 1 p.m. **SEPTEMBER 29**

WHERE: Sheppard Park

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114

Personal Health

AT LINCOLN COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER



FAMILIAR FACES, NEW ROLES

Lincoln Community Center's cadre of fitness professionals are doing themselves – and the fitness center – proud. Meet two experts who are ready to step up your game:

>> PERSONAL TRAINER

Fitness attendant Cody Kinley, who has worked at Lincoln Center since 2015, earned his Fitness Management degree and certification in personal training from the American Council on Exercise. Want to lose weight or build your core? Kinley can help you reach your fitness goals.

>> HEALTH COACH

Looking for a change? Group instructor Jen Gregory, who has taught Fitness 101 since 2015, earned a health coach certification from the American Council on Exercise. Gregory merges the best practices of exercise, nutrition and health with behavior-change techniques from coaching and positive psychology.

ASSESSMENTS & CONSULTATIONS

Fitness center members are eligible for a complimentary training assessment or coaching consultation. Just stop in and grab Cody or Jen's business card to make an appointment!

Not a member? No problem! Highland residents can snag an annual membership for only \$20 per month with no initiation fee!

Amenities include a variety of cardio and strength equipment, group fitness classes and much more.

INFO: (219) 838-0114
or highlandparks.org



BEWARE OF SCAMS

Highland Police have taken several reports where people were scammed out of money by callers claiming to be arrested family members needing bond money or utility company reps collecting overdue bills. In some cases, Highland residents have been scammed out of thousands of dollars.

Police are asking store managers to be vigilant in talking to customers making large purchases of gift cards.

"Most victims are elderly residents," Cmdr. John Banasiak said. "Please look out for those who may be vulnerable to this scam. Do what you can to prevent them from becoming victims."

NEW POLICE OFFICER



Welcome Highland's newest police officer, Glenn P. DuRocher. The Highland High School grad earned an Associate's Degree in criminal justice from Purdue University Northwest.

Officer DuRocher comes to the Highland Police Department from the Lake County Sheriff's Department Corrections Division. Upon completion of the police academy in November, the 29-year-old will take part in the HPD's 16-week field-training program.

TREE ADVISORY BOARD

The Highland Tree Advisory Board convened for the first time in August with six of the seven positions filled. Bill Vargo was selected to chair the group, which opted to meet at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at Town Hall.

In addition to Vargo, members of the group include: Terry Krooswyk, Connie Bahena, Richard Underkofler, James Colias and Ron Jackowski. All are Highland residents and were selected by the Town Council.

WANT TO APPLY? If you are interested in being named to the vacant seat, please download an application online at highland.in.gov/BoardsCommissions.

YOUTH CHORUS AUDITIONS

Northwest Indiana Youth Chorus invites singers aged 6-18 to audition for its fall season. NIYC rehearses Monday evenings for its annual concerts and also participates in local festivals, musical theatre and liturgical activities.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Mondays beginning **SEPTEMBER 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Room 108

INFO: (219) 629-5448 or bdniff@iun.edu

PICKLEBALL POINTERS

Adults - ages 19 and up - learn the basics of pickleball from the rules and point system to serving, volleys, and more.

WHEN: 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, **SEPTEMBER 11-OCTOBER 23** (off 9/25)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$24 residents / \$30 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114

KICKAROO KARATE KIDS

A fun, non-contact program that inspires self-esteem, builds character and prepares young children - ages 3-5 - to face life's challenges. There are no elements of sparring or practicing against one another. Dress comfortably.

WHEN: 3:15-3:50 p.m. or 4-4:35 p.m. Mondays, **SEPTEMBER 10-OCTOBER 15**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$47 residents / \$52 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114

FRED'S ART FOR KIDS

Kids ages 10-16 learn drawing, colored pencil, pen and ink as well as cartooning, acrylic painting & more. New students will start from the beginning, returning students will build on previous session.

WHEN: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Fridays, **SEPTEMBER 14-OCTOBER 26** (off 9/28)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$36 residents / \$41 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114

BIDDY BOWLING

Biddy Bowling is a non-instructional league for boys and girls ages 4 to 11. Register by **SEPTEMBER 21** for this five-week program of lively bumper bowling.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Saturdays, **SEPTEMBER 22** through **OCTOBER 20**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy Ave

FEE: \$36 residents / \$39 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114

Grab the family and your wheels
and head to Wicker Memorial Park
for this year's Ride the Night event.

We'll award a prize for the best decorated bicycle
before this family-friendly event kicks off.

RIDE THE NIGHT



7 PM SEPTEMBER 15
Wicker Memorial Park

6:30 p.m. check-in at the West Pavilion
\$7 adults and \$5 children under 12

Register at the chamber office, 8535 Kennedy, or online
at highlandgriffithchamber.com or eventbrite.com

GARAGE & BAKE SALE

Hunt for gently-used gems and enjoy homemade treats at the annual garage and bake sale, hosted by the St. James Women's Guild. Clothes are \$5 a bag on Friday. Other items priced as marked. Pierogies are \$6 per dozen.

WHEN: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 27**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, **SEPTEMBER 28**

WHERE: St. James the Less Parish Hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave.

DONATION DROP-OFF: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, **SEPTEMBER 25** and Wednesday, **SEPTEMBER 26**.

INFO: Call Chris Magley at (219) 810-2043.

OLG RUMMAGE SALE

Looking for just the right bargain? Stop by Our Lady of Grace School for more hidden treasures at the 8th grade rummage sale. Students are raising money for their trip to the state Capitol, where they'll learn about laws and how they're passed.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 22**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 23**

WHERE: Our Lady of Grace School, 3025 Highway Ave. Enter through Door D. **DONATION:** Drop off **SEPTEMBER 17-20** at the main office. No clothes or furniture.

INFO: For more information, please email Ana Topp at toppmom2@aol.com.